Hist 108
World History Since 1492
Prof. Lora Wildenthal
Teaching Assistant Wes Skidmore
Spring 2014
MWF 9:00-9:50
HUM 328

"It has yet to turn a profit."

Course Description:
This class deepens your understanding of the world today by examining the four processes that have most strongly shaped our world over the last 500 years. These are: struggles between Europeans and colonized peoples; changes in the production and exchange of goods; the emergence and proliferation of the modern state; and the spread of middle-class ideas of taste and respectability.

This course carries Distribution I credit.

Learning objectives:
This class has three goals. First, the reading and homework assignments will hone your skills at carefully reading "primary sources" (materials from the past which historians examine, as opposed to the stories historians compose after examining such materials). Weekly homework questions will test your ability to read accurately, to analyze these texts, and to argue independently yet soundly. The outcome will be a demonstrated ability to interpret primary sources clearly and convincingly. *See Sam Wineburg, Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural*

Acts (Temple University Press, 2001), chs. 2-3, on how history students learn to approach any kind of evidence with more sophistication than those who have not had any historical training.

Second, lectures and readings will provide you a set of examples related to those processes: colonialism, state formation and social hierarchy, systems of exchange and labor, and taste and respectability. Each lecture includes key terms that will help you compare these examples. You will be able to compare and to historicize (place in context) these examples. It will become obvious to you that there have been multiple human ways of living, that these ways have changed over time, with varying degrees of violence, and that each has entailed distinct kinds of power relations. The final exam will test your ability to discern how these cases differ from each other and what some of the implications of those differences are.

Third, if the premise of this course is correct—namely, that these are the four processes that have done the most to shape our world over the last 500 or so years—then you should be able to independently interpret, compare, and formulate questions about phenomena that appear in the media, in ways that go beyond what the journalist has offered. In other words, you will notice (assuming you read some quality news sources) that you can see current events in a deeper historical context than you would have been able to before taking this class. You will not be tested on this ability, but any of us are welcome to bring or post relevant media items, with a brief comment, for class members to read if they wish.

How to reach us:

Prof. Lora Wildenthal
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office tel.: 4948
office hours: Fridays 1-3. If you can't make that time, please suggest an appointment time.

Teaching Assistant Wes Skidmore
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How this course works

Most Mondays and Wednesdays, you will listen to lectures and occasionally ask questions. Most Fridays, you will have completed a set of homework questions for posting on Owlspace, and come with a printed copy to class to discuss the week's reading (or film) with your classmates and us. We will expect to hear from everyone or almost everyone on Friday. It is most definitely the time to ask questions, not merely to show your understanding. You will have an average of 30 pages of reading, some of it difficult, for each of the 11 weeks in which there is reading; over the 2 remaining weeks of class you will watch 2 films instead.

You will find on Owlspace the readings, films, homework questions, and backup copies of the syllabus, maps, and other handouts that are distributed in class.

Course materials and classroom technology

All of our course materials are on our course website at owlspace.rice.edu. You do not need to purchase anything at the bookstore and you will not be using the Fondren reserve desk. However, you must be registered for the course to gain access to these materials on Owlspace. If for any reason you don't have access to Owlspace, please let us know immediately so we can get you the needed materials.

Bring readings and one copy of your homework to class in printout form. No Ebooks, pdfs read online, etc. Use paper and pencil or pen to take notes. **No computers, computer-like devices, or cell phones are to be used in class.** In the classroom, our technology will be pencils, pens, and paper.

Why: It is faster to find the right page using a paper text. It is easier to mark up a paper text. Also, we need to get all distractions out of the way. Computers disrupt our communication. They block our lines of sight and distract us and our neighbors. When cell phones ring or vibrate, they interrupt everyone's train of thought. In class, we are talking to each other, not to others.

If you like to take notes on your computer, please do—after class. You will gain a superior understanding of the material if you transfer your handwritten notes to your computer, because taking notes on your notes is the best way to study.

Your course materials are not free, because we expect you to print out all readings and one copy of each homework to bring to class. If you don't have your own printer, it will cost you 6 cents per page to print out on campus. The readings require you to make 226 sheets of printouts, and we estimate that each homework will require an average of 2 sheets, for a total of 252 sheets for a cost of $15.12. (You will have a total of 323 pages *to read* and two films to watch.) We have extra copies of most readings, and can make you copies too, if you are in a jam. Here is a link guiding you to costs and locations for on-campus printing:

https://docs.rice.edu/confluence/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=5604420

In general:

Please always write on your printouts of our Owlspace readings.

Please never write, even with pencil, in any library books. Even writing in pencil and then erasing damages the paper, as does folding the paper. This class does not require you to use any library books, but we are taking the opportunity to say that.

Grading

The best way to make a good grade in this class is to work steadily each week. **If you miss a class for any reason, meet with either of us soon afterwards to read through the lecture notes and to ask questions, just as you would have done if you had been in class.** You will do very well in this class if you attend all classes and take notes; devote one uninterrupted evening a week to the homework; and study for the final by reading through all your notes.

When completing the homework, we suggest that you read the questions first; then read our introductions to the readings; then start reading, marking up the reading as you go, to collect answers; then write up your answers. At that point, take a break and (perhaps the next day) read through your answers quickly and edit them for clarity.

Our two films are available to you streamed on our Owlspace site. However, it is nicer to watch them together on a big screen. For that reason, we have arranged a Saturday night screening of each film, with dinner included, at a place on campus to be determined. You can choose whether you want to watch the film alone or at this common screening.

The course grade consists of the following three weighted components:

3. 20% Attendance To accommodate life's random events, you may miss three class meetings with no penalty. You can miss for any reason, and you don't need to tell us the reason. That's the equivalent of a whole week off. If you need more time off than that, you probably have a serious problem—talk to us.

If you miss more than three class meetings, you will not receive an A for this part of your grade. With increasing unexcused absences, the attendance grade drops off as follows: 4 absences = B, 5 absences=C, 6 absences=F.

What about serious illness, or required participation in a university event? To be fair to everyone, these require written proof. We will work out alternative due dates individually. For medical or other serious problems precluding attendance, have your doctor's office or college master produce a note stating when you are fit to return to class. For university events, have your staff or faculty supervisor email us. You will still have your three "freebie" absences, although we hope you will not use them. Any missed classes, for whatever reason, is a disruption to you that just makes work for you later. **If you miss a class, for any reason, meet with either of us soon afterwards to read through the lecture notes and ask questions, just as you would if you had been in class.**

2. 55% Weekly homework questions This part of your grade will be calculated from the average of all your homework grades after the two with the lowest grades have been dropped. If you do not turn any assignment for a given week, including in the early weeks if you join us late, then the missing assignment(s) will be the one(s) considered to have the lowest grade(s).

Always bring your own printed copy of your homework to class on Friday. You will take notes on it, and you will be able convey your responses efficiently.

Most Thursdays/ Fridays, homework will be due. **The deadline for posting homework on Owlspace is Thursday night before class, at 12 midnight.** We don't want to see any later postings than that, as you will be not be effective in class the next morning. If for some reason posting does not work, bring an extra printed copy to hand in at the beginning of class the next day. Please don't not email us homeworks—there are too many of you. Either post on Owlspace, or bring us an extra printed copy.

No late homework. It is too complicated for us to handle late work in a way that is fair to everyone. If you miss the deadline of midnight on Owlspace or the beginning of class for a paper copy, the best thing you can do for your success in the class is to move on to the next week's assignment and make sure that *it* won't be late.

One or two class meetings after each discussion, you will get your homework back, marked with an A (accurate and thoughtful), B (basically accurate), or C (inaccurate in several places). Incomplete or missing homeworks will be graded D or F.

Past experience shows that after a couple of weeks at the latest, virtually all students are able to do well on these homeworks. You will receive comments from us. Some hints: Answer questions about definitions or arguments with evidence or examples taken directly from the text. Always use quotation marks and page numbers if you quote. Don't be vague if there is a specific answer in the text. On the other hand, if there is ambiguity in the text, acknowledge that—don't pretend there is a clear answer when there isn't. The length of successful homeworks varies greatly. Quality, not quantity, is decisive.

3. 25% Final exam The final exam will be comprehensive. We will provide a study guide on the last day of class, and it will contain the actual exam questions (among other questions), so you will have no surprises. You may use your readings and notes (no computers) during the exam. Probably the final exam will consist of 1 long essay on some major themes of the class, using key terms, and 1 short essay drawing on the maps in class, in which you will discuss where this class has gone geographically. This is a final exam that rewards preparation. All lecture notes are available to all students to read in office hours in the last weeks of the semester, for those who wish to review their notes that way.

All students must take the exam on the scheduled date. Do not make travel plans that interfere with that date. The Registrar's Office will announce the time, date and location a few weeks after the semester has begun.

If you are taking this class pass/fail... you should be aware that in order to pass the class, you must at least 1) take the final exam, 2) attend a majority of class meetings, and 3) turn in all but two of the homework assignments, regardless of when you joined the class. That is, even if you think your grade is high enough to pass without completing some assignments, you must still do the above things to pass the class.

Plagiarism

All written work must be entirely your own work, produced without the help of sources not assigned in class and without the help of other people. Do not write assignments in teams; work that shows close collaboration will be suspect in our eyes. We may take the inability to explain your own answers as evidence that you submitted someone else's homework. Grades are permanent record of your effort, and therefore we take plagiarism seriously. Even if you think you know what is and isn't plagiarism, we ask you to read through the brief Rice document "Academic Fraud and the Honor System" at honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/.

Disability Accommodation

Any student with a documented disability seeking academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with Prof. Wildenthal during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain as confidential as possible. Students with disabilities will need to also contact Disability Support Services in Allen Center, Room 111 (adarice@rice.edu).

Schedule of Class Meetings

WEEK 1

Monday, 13 January Introduction to class. Forms of production and trade. Africa and interregional trade before 1500

Wednesday, 15 January Mexico and Christendom before 1500

Friday, 17 January discuss reading: Nzinga Mbemba (Affonso I) (4 pages to copy, 4 to read)

WEEK 2

Monday, 20 January – NO CLASS

Wednesday, 22 January The conquest of the Aztec

Friday, 24 January discuss reading: "Lords and Holy Men of Tenochtitlan Reply to the Franciscans" (3 pages to copy and to read); Fray Pedro de Gante's Letter to Charles V (8 pages to copy and to read)

WEEK 3

Monday, 27 January Society and state in East Asia, 1400s-1500s

Wednesday, 29 January Iberian, English, and Dutch entry into the Indian Ocean and East Asia

Friday, 31 January discuss reading: Galeote Pereira (23 pages to copy, 39 to read); Tokugawa Iemitsu (3 pages to copy, 3 to read)

WEEK 4

Monday, 3 February Islam before 1500 and the Ottoman Empire

Wednesday, 5 February Splintering of Christendom and centralization of European states

Friday, 7 February discuss reading: Bodin on witchcraft (7 pages to copy, 13 to read); documents on witchcraft (Bonn, Bamberg, Spee; 8 pages to copy, 15 to read)

WEEK 5

Monday, 10 February The invention of nationalism, part 1: The United Kingdom

Wednesday, 12 February Changes in the land: colonists and Amerindians in New England

Friday, 14 February discuss reading: Locke (25 pages to copy, 44 to read—difficult)

WEEK 6

Monday, 17 February The invention of racism, part 1: The Atlantic slave trade and New World plantations

Wednesday, 19 February The invention of racism, part 2: The New World paradox of slavery and freedom

Friday, 21 February discuss reading: Craton (30 pages to copy and to read)

WEEK 7

Monday, 24 February The French Revolution

Wednesday, 26 February The Haitian Revolution

Friday, 28 February discuss reading: documents on French and Haitian Revolutions (23 pages to copy, 31 pages to read—difficult)

WEEK 8 – SPRING BREAK

Monday, 1 March – Friday, 7 March

WEEK 9

Monday, 10 March Industrialization, part 1: The experience of owning and laboring in industrial capitalism

Wednesday, 12 March Industrialization, part 2: Colonial relationships in industrial capitalism

Friday, 14 March discuss reading: Documents from British parliamentary committees during the Industrial Revolution (27 pages to copy, 25 to read)

WEEK 10

Monday, 17 March Marx's critique of capitalism

Wednesday, 19 March The invention of nationalism, part 2: The Nineteenth Century

Friday, 21 March discuss reading: John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor Mill, ""Early Essays on Marriage and Divorce) (13 pages to copy, 21 pages to read); Ottoman Decree on the Modern Citizen (3 pages to copy and to read)

WEEK 11

Monday, 24 March The market of their dreams: Britain, China and opium (1800-1840)

Wednesday, 26 March Whatever happened to New World slavery?

Friday, 28 March discuss reading: DuBois, "The Concept of Race" (14 pages to copy, 23 to read), Ch'ien Lung (4 pages to copy, 6 to read)

WEEK 12

Monday, 31 March The U.S. as a settler society and the conquest of Native Americans (1820s-1870s)

Wednesday, 2 April "Backwardness" and the case of Russia

Friday, 4 April – NO CLASS – MIDTERM RECESS

WEEK 13

Monday, 7 April The First World War, fascism, and the Second World War

Wednesday, 9 April The "new" imperialism

Friday, 11 April discuss reading: Figner (31 pages to copy, 55 to read)

WEEK 14

Saturday, 12 April dinner and showing of film Our Daily Bread, 6:00 p.m., place TBA

Monday, 14 April State socialism

Wednesday, 16 April The Cold War (1945-1989) and After

Friday, 18 April discuss film: Our Daily Bread (92 min.)

WEEK 15

Saturday, 19 April dinner and showing of film Cannibal Tours, 6:00 p.m., place TBA

Monday, 21 April Whatever happened to formal empire? Decolonization

Wednesday, 23 April Consuming Habits: The Invention of Modern Consumerism and Advertising

Friday, 25 April discuss film: Cannibal Tours (77 min.); distribution of study guide for final exam